



TESTIMONY BY RICHARD GENTILE, ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

February 28, 2018

HB 5149, An Act Concerning Sober Living Homes.

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee.

Good Day. My name is Richard Gentile and I am the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the Town of East Hartford. I am here to provide testimony on behalf of East Hartford's Mayor, Marcia A. Leclerc. Mayor Leclerc supports HB 5149, An Act Concerning Sober Living Homes.

Sober Homes do not provide treatment to their residents. Instead, they provide a structured living situation for people in recovery from substance abuse. The worthwhile goal of many of these facilities is to help residents adjust to a substance free world, find employment and long-term housing. The proposed bill does not unfairly regulate the location or ownership of sober homes. Instead the bill merely provides a mechanism for a sober living home to register with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services ("DMHAS"), thereby providing critical information to the state such as who is responsible for the day to day operations at the home.

While Mayor Leclerc urges the committee to favorably report on this bill, she does ask that consideration be given to adding additional language that would clarify how DMHAS can share point of contact information with a municipality's chief elected official or police chief so that municipal officials will know who to contact should a public safety or other issue arise with respect to the property.

Thank you for your time and consideration.